

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

### Listing of Claims

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of supporting a user to access a service,  
2 said method being performed in a service selection gateway (SSG), said method  
3 comprising:

4 receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of ~~switching time points; each~~  
5 ~~of said plurality of switching points comprising a time point;~~

6 counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of  
7 ~~switching time~~ points; and

8 sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each of said  
2 plurality of ~~switching time~~ points ~~comprises~~ specifies a corresponding time instance point  
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume comprises  
2 an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, wherein said traffic volume  
2 comprises a marginal count from a previous ~~switching time~~ point, said accounting record  
3 further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, further comprising maintaining a  
2 marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and said  
3 aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
2 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;  
3 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of ~~switching time~~  
4 points; and

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

5           computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by  
6           subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1           Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said accounting  
2           record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between  
3           successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1           Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, wherein said plurality of  
2           switching time points are specified for each day.

1           Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said service is billed according  
2           to a post-paid model.

1           Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein said traffic volume is  
2           associated with a session initiated by said user.

1           Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A machine readable medium carrying one or more  
2           sequences of instructions for causing a SSG to support a user to access a service, wherein  
3           execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors  
4           contained in said SSG causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:  
5           receiving in said SSG, data representing a plurality of switching time points;  
6           ~~wherein each of said switching points comprises a time point;~~  
7           counting in said SSG, a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of  
8           switching time points; and  
9           sending from said SSG, an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1           Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The machine readable medium of claim 11,  
2           wherein each of said plurality of switching time points ~~comprises~~ specifies a  
3           corresponding time instance point at which a tariff changes to access said service.

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611

Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 Claim 13 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 12, wherein said  
2 traffic volume comprises an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 12,  
2 wherein said traffic volume comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time  
3 point, said accounting record further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 15 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, further  
2 comprising maintaining a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said  
3 marginal count and said aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 14,  
2 further comprising:  
3 maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;  
4 storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching time  
5 points; and  
6 computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record by  
7 subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 14,  
2 wherein said accounting record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said  
3 tariff duration is between successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The machine readable medium of claim 17,  
2 wherein said plurality of switching time points are specified for each day of a week.

1 Claim 19 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said  
2 service is billed according to a post-paid model.

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1 Claim 20 (Original): The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said  
2 traffic volume is associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting  
2 a user to access a service, said SSG comprising:  
3 means for receiving data representing a plurality of switching time points; wherein  
4 each of said switching points comprises a time point;  
5 means for counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of switching  
6 time points; and  
7 means for sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The SSG of claim 21, wherein each of said  
2 plurality of switching time points specifies comprises a corresponding time instance point  
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

1 Claim 23 (Original): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume comprises  
2 an aggregate count of data transferred.

1 Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 22, wherein said traffic volume  
2 comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time point, said accounting record  
3 further comprising an aggregate count.

1 Claim 25 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising means for  
2 maintaining a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and  
3 said aggregate count respectively.

1 Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 24, further comprising:  
2 means for maintaining a single counter to count said aggregate count;  
3 means for storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of  
4 switching time points; and

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

5 means for computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting  
6 record by subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1 Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said accounting  
2 record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between  
3 successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1 Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 27, wherein said plurality of  
2 switching time points are specified for each day.

1 Claim 29 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said service is billed according  
2 to a post-paid model.

1 Claim 30 (Original): The SSG of claim 24, wherein said traffic volume is  
2 associated with a session initiated by said user.

1 Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A service selection gateway (SSG) supporting a  
2 user to access a service, said SSG comprising:

3 a tariff block receiving data representing a plurality of switching time points;  
4 ~~wherein each of said switching points comprises a time point;~~  
5 a forwarding block forwarding a plurality of packets related to said user;  
6 an accounting block counting a traffic volume from or to each of said plurality of  
7 switching time points according to said plurality of packets; and  
8 an outbound interface sending an accounting record containing said traffic volume.

1 Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 31, wherein each of said  
2 plurality of switching time points ~~comprises~~ specifies a corresponding time instance point  
3 at which a tariff changes to access said service.

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1           Claim 33 (Original): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume comprises  
2           an aggregate count of data transferred.

1           Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 32, wherein said traffic volume  
2           comprises a marginal count from a previous switching time point, said accounting record  
3           further comprising an aggregate count.

1           Claim 35 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting block  
2           maintains a marginal counter and an aggregate counter to count said marginal count and  
3           said aggregate count respectively.

1           Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting  
2           block maintains a single counter to count said aggregate count, said accounting block  
3           storing said aggregate count in a variable at each of said plurality of switching time  
4           points, and computing said marginal count at a time of generating said accounting record  
5           by subtracting said variable from said aggregate counter at said time.

1           Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said accounting  
2           record is sent at least once in every tariff duration, wherein said tariff duration is between  
3           successive ones of said plurality of switching time points.

1           Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The SSG of claim 37, wherein said plurality of  
2           switching time points are specified for each day.

1           Claim 39 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said service is billed according  
2           to a post-paid model.

1           Claim 40 (Original): The SSG of claim 34, wherein said traffic volume is  
2           associated with a session initiated by said user.

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006  
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611  
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

1           Claim 41 (New): The SSG of claim 31, wherein said outbound interface is coupled  
2           to a plurality of physical paths, wherein said forwarding block examines a header of each of  
3           said plurality of packets to determine the specific one of said plurality of physical paths on  
4           which to forward each packet, whereby said SSG operates as a switch in forwarding said  
5           packets.

1           Claim 42 (New): The SSG of claim 41, wherein said forwarding block determines said  
2           specific one of said plurality of physical paths based on a destination address contained in  
3           said header, wherein said SSG operates a router.

1           Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said SSG is coupled to a plurality  
2           of physical paths, said method further comprising:  
3           receiving a plurality of packets on said plurality of physical paths;  
4           examining a header of each of said plurality of paths to determine the specific one of  
5           said plurality of physical paths on which to forward the packet; and  
6           forwarding each of said plurality of packets on the determined one of said plurality  
7           of physical paths,  
8           whereby said SSG operates as a switch.